

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 STR-07
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15
/108 W

-----025557 300631Z /14

R 291825Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7135
USDA/FAS WASHDC

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FAS FOR TURNER OYLOE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, GW
SUBJECT: TARIFF CLASSIFICATION OF SWEET SORGHUM SEED

REF: OYLOE'S LETTER TO ANDERSON, FEB. 24

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE QUESTION WITH THE GERMAN
SEED TRADE. THEY REPORT THAT UPON REQUEST OF
FREUDENBERGER AND OTHER IMPORTERS, TWO GERMAN SEED
TRADE ASSOCIATIONS MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE MINAG
BONN CONCERNING THE TARIFF CLASSIFICATION FOR SWEET
SORGHUM SEED. MINAG REPLIED THAT IT WOULD SUPPORT THE
POSITION TAKEN BY THE TRADE BUT WOULD ONLY DO SO IN
CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT ROUND OF GATT NEGOTIATIONS.

2. THE ASSOCIATIONS BASICALLY UNDERSTAND THE CUSTOMS'
REASONING REGARDING CLASSIFICATION. THE SEED
ASSOCIATIONS DO NOT REGARD THE CUSTOMS CLASSIFICATION
AND IMPORT LEVY AS INCONSISTENT WITH THE EC TARIFF
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SCHEDULE, AND THUS FEEL THAT THE MATTER WOULD HAVE TO
BE TAKEN UP IN THE GATT. INCLUSION IN THE POSITION
"SEED OF OTHER FORAGE PLANTS" CODE NO. 1203 59900 AT
FIVE PERCENT AD VALOREM DUTY WOULD BE ONE POSSIBILITY.
IT IS OUR IMPRESSION FROM TALKING TO THE TRADE THAT
WE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO PAY FOR IT IN OUR OFFERS/
REQUESTS. IN THIS RESPECT, IT IS SIMILAR TO THE

BLUEBERRY/CRANBERRY CLASSIFICATION PROBLEM.

3. THE GERMAN SEED TRADE ASSOCIATIONS STATED THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD SWEET SORGHUM SEED IS INCLUDED IN THE U.S. GATT REQUEST LIST, AS WELL AS FROM SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES. A LOT WILL DEPEND ON THE ATTITUDE OF THE OTHER EC MEMBERS. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO SPEAK WITH THE COMPETENT MINAG OFFICIALS ON THIS ISSUE BECAUSE THEY ARE ON EASTER VACATION. WE HOPE TO CONTACT THEM ON MARCH 31 OR APRIL 3 AND WILL REPORT FURTHER ON THIS PROBLEM.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: IMPORTS, TARIFF CLASSIFICATIONS, SORGHUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN05676
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780137-0884
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780315/aaaaammw.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7024febb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3175051
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TARIFF CLASSIFICATION OF SWEET SORGHUM SEED
TAGS: EAGR, GE
To: STATE USDA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7024febb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014